

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OES-03 INT-05

FEA-01 /105 W

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R 231645Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2311

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, EG

SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS' WARM RECEPTION IN CAIRO WELL RECEIVED AT HOME

REF: ATHENS 119

1. WHILE PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS EFFORT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF TO RESTORING AND RESTRUCTURING GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND THE BALKANS THROUGH A SERIES OF PERSONAL VISITS, 1976 HS, WITH THE CARAMANLIS TRIP TO EGYPT, USHERED IN WHAT THE GREEK PRESS REFERS TO AS THE "THIRD DIMENSION OF GREEK FOREIGN POLICY"...IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD. IN SPITE OF THE LINGERING BITTERNESS ARISING FROM THE OUSTER FROM EGYPT OF THOUSAND OF THEIR COMPATRIOTS DURING THE NASSER ERA, MANY GREEKS, NEVERTHELESS, STILL VIEW EGYPT AS THE LEADER OF THE ARAB WORLD AND ALL THAT IT MEANS IN TERMS OF PETROLEUM, A SOURCE OF POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT

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AS WELL AS SUPPORT ON THORNY INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS

SUCH AS CYPRUS. THUS, IT WAS PARTICULARLY SATISFYING TO GREEK EARS TO HEAR PRESIDENT SADAT STATE THAT THERE HAD BEEN COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON ALL THE ISSUES DISCUSSED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND CARAMANLIS WHOM HE HAILED AS THE "SAVIOR OF DEMOCRACY AND ARCHITECT OF THE NEW GREECE."

2. THE ACTING CHIEF IN THE MFA RESPONSIBLE FOR NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS TOLD US TODAY (JANUARY 23) THAT THE CARAMANLIS VISIT WAS GENERALLY INTENDED TO SET THE MOOD FOR INTENSIFIED FUTURE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD AND TO EMPHASIZE THE CURRENT GOOD STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. WHILE GREEK RELATIONS WITH THAT AREA OF THE WORLD HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN VERY GOOD, THE GOV WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED BY SADAT'S PUBLIC SUPPORT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. ADDITIONALLY, HE NOTED, A SECONDARY PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO BOLSTER MODERATE EGYPT WHICH IS NOW BEING CHALLENGED FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE ARAB WORLD BY THE MORE RADICAL ARABS. EGYPT NEEDS WESTERN SUPPORT, AND GREECE IS EAGER TO LEND A HAND. HE CONCLUDED THAT WHATEVER ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS RESULT FROM THE VISIT WOULD BE INCIDENTAL. HE LABELLED PRESS REPORTS OF AGREEMENTS ON PETROLEUM PURCHASES, INCREASED TRADE POSSIBILITIES, AND MORE RAPID COMPENSATION TO GREEK CITIZENS WHOSE PROPERTY HAD BEEN NATIONALIZED IN EGYPT AS HIGHLY EXAGGERATED. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, HE SAID, WAS DELAYED SOMEWHAT OVER TECHNICAL DISAGREEMENTS ON CERTAIN ECONOMIC ITEMS, BUT THERE WERE NO REAL PROBLEMS AND THE DRAFTERS WERE VERY CLOSE TO REACHING COMPROMISE LANGUAGE.

3. THE MEDIA HAVE ACCORDED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO THE VISIT, MOST OF WHICH HAS BEEN FAVORABLE. SADAT'S BACKING ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION, HIS EULOGY OF THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER AND THE IMPROVED POSSIBILITY OF PETROLEUM IMPORTS FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE SOME TOPICS WHICH RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PLAY. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS HERALDED THE VISIT, OF COURSE, WHILE THE ULTRA-RIGHT HAS TREATED IT WITH SOMEWHAT MORE RESERVE. SOME OF THE LEFTIST MEDIA WERE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC. ATHINAIKI (PASOK), FOR ITS PART, CAUTIONED AGAINST OFFENDING OTHER ARAB STATES BY FORGING OVERLY CLOSE LINKS WITH CAIRO, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIZOSPASTIS (KKE-EXTERIOR) SUGGESTED THAT GREECE WAS BEING USED DEVOUSLY AS A STOOGE BY THE WEST TO GAIN ACCESS TO ARAB CAPITALS.

4. COMMENT: FOR DOMESTIC PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES, THE CAIRO VISIT IS A NET PLUS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. WHETHER IT WILL, AS THE GREEKS HOPE, YIELD LONG-TERM ECONOMIC BENEFITS AS WELL, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

KUBISCH

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